

ABSTRACT

An inflatable vest design for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and for cardiac assist. The vest may include a belt that wraps around the chest of a patient, and a removable bladder that is placed against the chest and held in place by the belt. The inflatable bladder expands radially to first conform to a patient's chest, and to apply circumferential pressure to the thorax of the patient. By cyclically inflating the bladder, the vest can be used in CPR and cardiac assist treatments. In addition, alternative vest designs are disclosed showing removable bladders. These vest improvements lower the energy consumption and make smaller and portable cardiopulmonary resuscitation systems more practical.

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